

TRENDING MacBook Pro Nintendo Switch Google Pixel iOS 10.1 PS4 Pro

It takes just a quarter of a second to figure out if someone is an android

By [Duncan Geere](#) 2 days ago [World of tech](#)

Westworld's got nothing on you

[f](#) [t](#) [w](#) [p](#) [e](#)



You've probably heard of the '[uncanny valley](#)' - the phenomenon where humanlike robots seem creepy. It seems there's something hard-wired in the human brain that lets us easily tell the difference between fake and real objects.

Now, psychologists at UC Berkeley have measured how fast that process happens in our brains - and it's fast. According to their findings, humans are visually wired to reach a snap judgement about what's real and what isn't in as little as a quarter of a second.

In a study of 68 healthy adults with normal vision, volunteers were asked to view up to a dozen images in quick succession of random people, animals and objects - from a toy car carrying toy passengers to a guinea pig wearing a shirt.

After seeing each group of images, they were asked to rate how lifelike the group was on a scale of one to ten. The results showed that people were able to do this accurately even when the image was displayed for less than 250 milliseconds.

Animacy Decisions

"This unique visual mechanism allows us to perceive what's really alive and what's simulated in just 250 milliseconds," [said](#) study lead author Allison Yamanashi Leib. "It also guides us to determine the overall level of activity in a scene."

"Our study shows that participants made animacy decisions without conscious deliberation, and that they agreed on what was lifelike and what was not," added David Whitney, study senior author. "It is surprising that, even without talking about it or deliberating about it together, we immediately share in our impressions of lifelikeness."

"This suggests that the visual system favors abstract global impressions such as lifelikeness at the expense of the fine details," Whitney said. "We perceive the forest, and how alive it is, but not the trees."

The full details of the study were [published](#) in *Nature Communications*.

- [Scientists finally find a good use for nuclear waste: making batteries](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

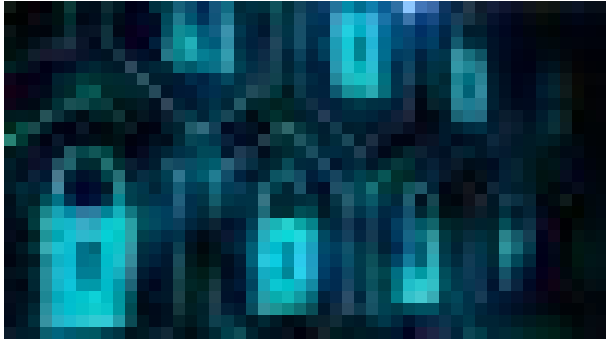
Duncan Geere 

Duncan Geere is TechRadar's science writer. Every day he finds the most interesting science news and explains why you should care. You can read more of his stories [here](#), and you can find him on Twitter under the handle [@duncangeere](#).

RELATED NEWS



Mass Effect: Andromeda release date, news and rumors



The best VPN services and 20 Cyber Monday VPN deals



Cyber Monday deals 2016: the best deals at Target, Amazon and Walmart



Cyber Monday Chromecast deals: the best prices on Google's pint-sized streamer

SEE MORE WORLD OF TECH NEWS ►

You May Like

Sensational Spider-Man (2006-2007) #35 Digital Comic
comixology.com

Sponsored Links by Taboola

There Are 7 Types of Irish Last Names - Which One Is Yours?

Ancestry

White Chocolate Peppermint Rooibos Tea-Filled Tin

teavana.com

Making Your Great Smile Even Better with This Affordable Option

SmileDirectClub

Become a Skillful Communicator by Earning Your Online Degree

Southern New Hampshire University

Risk Free Trial - The Most Minimal CPAP Masks Available

Easy Breathe

We Tried Blue Apron: Here's What Happened

Blue Apron

These 99 Retirement Tips May Surprise You

Fisher Investments

San Pablo: This Meal Service is Cheaper Than Your Local Store

Home Chef

Answer 10 Questions + Receive A Free Pair of Shoes

JustFab

America's 50 Largest Cities, and the Richest People in Each One [Slideshow]

Forbes

35 Watches No One Can Afford

ComedyTrash

Sensational Spider-Man (2006-2007) #35 Digital Comic

comixology.com

What Every Californian Needs to Do to Be Earthquake Ready

California Earthquake Authority

The Number 1 Reason Banks Don't Recommend Reverse Mortgages

NewRetirement

How This Sock is Changing the Industry

Bombas Socks

LOAD COMMENTS



TECH DEALS, PRIZES AND
LATEST NEWS

Get the best tech deals, reviews,
product advice, competitions,
unmissable tech news and more!

No spam, we promise. You can unsubscribe at any time and
we'll never share your details without your permission.

MOST POPULAR

MOST SHARED



- 1 The 15 best laptops of 2016: the top laptops ranked
 - 2 iOS 10 problems: Here's how to fix the most common issues
 - 3 10 best Bluetooth speakers available today
-
-